

Docket No. C 2319 PCT/US
Serial No. 10/501,623
Art Unit: 1655

Amendments to the Claims

The "Listing of Claims" replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical active component, said process comprising:

- (a) providing a fermentation broth comprising a plant component selected from the group consisting of plant constituents, plant extracts and mixtures thereof;
- (b) inoculating the fermentation broth with a microorganism; and
- (c) fermenting the microorganism-containing fermentation broth to produce an active component.

42. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the plant component is derived from a plant selected from the group consisting of potatoes, rice, soya, wheat, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, beans, peas, linseeds, cotton, sesame, lupins, rape, hemp, coconut palm, sunflowers, lucerne, hibiscus, maca, quinoa, almond, moringa, silk, baobab, cassia, irvingia, thistle, oil palm and mixtures thereof.

43. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the plant component comprises a plant constituent selected from the group consisting of seeds, nodules, roots, leaves, fruits and mixtures thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the plant component is selected from the group consisting of protein concentrates, hydrolyzates and isolates.

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45. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the fermentation broth is adjusted to a pH of from 4.5 to 8.5 prior to fermentation.

46. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, further comprising pretreating the fermentation broth prior to inoculating, wherein the pretreatment is selected from pastuerization, sterilization and combinations thereof.

47. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 46, wherein the pretreatment is carried out at a temperature of from 60 to 135°C.

48. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 46, wherein the pretreatment is carried out over a period of from 1 to 30 minutes.

49. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the fermentation broth is inoculated with a mixture of microorganisms.

50. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the microorganism comprises a component selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus* and *Leuconostoc*.

51. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 49, wherein the mixture of microorganisms comprises at least one microorganism ~~comprises a component~~ selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus* and *Leuconostoc*.

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52. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 51, wherein the mixture of microorganisms further comprises at least one microorganism ~~comprises~~ comprising a yeast.

53. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the fermentation is carried out at a temperature of from 10 to 47°C.

54. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, further comprising separating the active component from the fermented broth, wherein the separation is carried out in a manner selected from the group consisting of centrifugation, filtration, extraction, chromatography and precipitation.

55. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the plant component is derived from a pea plant.

56. (Previously Presented) A process for producing a cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical active component, said process comprising:

(a) providing a fermentation broth comprising a plant component selected from the group consisting of plant constituents, plant extracts and mixtures thereof, and subjecting the fermentation broth to a pretreatment selected from pastuerization, sterilization and combinations thereof;

(b) inoculating the fermentation broth with a mixture of microorganisms, wherein at least one microorganism comprises a component selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus* and *Leuconostoc*, and wherein at least one microorganism comprises a yeast;

(c) fermenting the microorganism-containing fermentation broth to produce an active component; and

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(d) separating the active component from the fermented broth, wherein the separation is carried out in a manner selected from the group consisting of centrifugation, filtration, extraction, chromatography and precipitation.

57. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparation comprising an active component prepared by the process according to claim 41.

58. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparation comprising an active component prepared by the process according to claim 56.

59. (Previously Presented) The preparation according to claim 57, wherein the active component is present in an amount of from 0.01 to 5% by weight, based on the preparation.

60. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a substrate, said method comprising:

(a) providing a substrate selected from the group consisting of skin and hair; and

(b) contacting the substrate with an active component prepared by the process according to claim 41.